

young. The bird remained perfectly motionless, with her head cocked to one side, watching me intently with her right eye for the several minutes I watched her. She was carrying a grasshopper nymph in her bill. The young were apparently not aware of the parent bird's presence for they made no acknowledgement of it.

As the bird was fully conscious during the time it was under observation and followed with her eye slight movements that I made, it is apparent that the behaviour observed was a case of protective freezing and not one of paralysis from fear. It is possible and even likely that this freezing reaction would have been followed by the "broken wing trick" had I moved closer or attempted to touch the bird.

—D. L. McINTOSH, Perth.

White-naped Honeyeater at University Grounds.—On October 1, 1953, an unusual call attracted my attention to a honeyeater at the University grounds, Nedlands. At the time a Red-tipped Pardalote's nest was being inspected, and from the jarrah canopy came a "clicking" sound, somewhat like the call of an agitated New Holland Honeyeater. A clear view was had of the birds which proved to be the White-naped Honeyeater (*McIlithreptus lunatus*). The black head, with a white band around the back of it, was noted. On calling it up to about six feet, by kissing the back of my hand, it was noticed that a small patch above the eye was conspicuously pure white. Apart from this colour, the bird tallied exactly with the description in Serventy and Whittell's *Handbook*.

In habit this bird differed from other honeyeaters in the University grounds. It was seen in a jarrah tree, hopping around the outer branches, in the manner of a Pardalote, stopping now and then to feed. The common local honeyeaters, the Brown and the New Holland, only use this tree as a resting place in flight.

—ERIC LINDGREN, Nedlands.

[The late O. H. Lipfert recorded the White-naped Honeyeater at Crawley during the 'nineties of the last century, it being abundant there and nesting freely (*The Emu*, vol 37, 1937, p. 133). Since those early observations the species has not been reported in the area until Mr. Lindgren's record.—Ed.]

Birds Dew Bathing.—The following records of apparent dew bathing may prove of interest. (a) Wooroloo. June 5, 1951. At about 0900 hrs. a Red Wattle-bird, *Anthochaera carunculata*, was observed making a considerable flutter among the extremities of branches, i.e. twigs too weak to support its weight. In all it visited several different branches in three different trees, the last a lemon-scented gum (*Eucalyptus citriodora*) where, after fluttering in one mass of leaves, the bird perched and preened, more or less confirming the impression that the bird had been bathing in the moisture that lay thick upon the leaves. The trees visited

were not in blossom (E.H.S.). (b) Wooroloo. July 13, 1952. At about 1000 hrs. a cock Golden Whistler, *Paehycephala pectoralis*, was observed dew bathing in the topmost boughs of a densely foliated *Persoonia elliptica* in jarrah forest. The night had been cold and the morning was fine and clear. Much moisture remained on the leaves. About thirty inches from the whistler, in a similar situation in the same tree, a cock Spinebill, *Acanthorhynchus superciliosus*, was behaving, apparently, in much the same way. (E.H.S.).

(c) Crawley. July 16, 1952. A Red Wattle-bird was seen fluttering with wings spread and feathers ruffled in a number of parts of the thick foliage of a Moreton Bay fig (*Ficus macrophylla*), at the University. This continued for several minutes. The sun was shining, but the foliage was damp from rain which had fallen an hour before. Similar behaviour had been noted in a Red Wattle-bird at Wooroloo early in May, but in this case the tree used was a jarrah (*Euc. marginata*). (L.E.S.).

(d) Crawley. July 21, 1952. A Western Magpie, *Gymnorhina dorsalis*, was seen leaf bathing in a low dense mass of buffalo grass (*Stenotaphrum glabrum*), *Hardenbergia*, and other low creepers in King's Park. The method of bathing was as described in the foregoing note, but in this case went on indefinitely, i.e. for over five minutes the approximate total length of my observation. (L.E.S.).

—ERIC H. and LINDSAY E. SEDGWICK, Wooroloo.

Observations on Feeding of Dusky Wood-Swallows.—On February 22, 1954, Mr. K. G. Buller made a hurried trip to Bannister in order to collect specimens of the Dusky Wood-Swallow (*Artamus cyanopterus*) seen in the area a short while previously. He located approximately a dozen birds of which he collected two mature females, one immature female showing the characteristic plumage, and one mature male.

On the following day I did a routine check of the stomach contents, and found two particularly interesting features. The first was that all specimens of the Dusky Wood-Swallow contained numbers of Jumper Ants (*Promyrmecia swalei* Craw.) comprising all forms, winged males and females, and workers. The stomachs also contained other insects, but *Promyrmecia* predominated.

In specimen no. 2, a female *A. cyanopterus* was a small portion of a jewel beetle, possibly *Curis* sp., which is not represented in the Museum collection. Specimen no. 3 was an immature female. This bird was not hawking, but was shot resting in company with an adult female. Its stomach contained material similar to that of the adults, but in a much more mutilated condition, together with the remainder of the *Curis* individual seen in no. 2. I assume that this immature female was still being fed by the parents. Mr. Buller's observations support this.

About half a mile distant from where he collected these birds, Mr. Buller saw 5 Black-faced Wood-Swallows (*A. cinereus*), of